

Fall Adult Education/Talmud Torah Events

—Ron Edelman,
Adult Education Co-Chair

Shabbat Meditation

To facilitate Shabbat peace, Ruth Schoenbach and Eva Konigsberg teach Jewish meditation every Saturday from 1 to 2:15 pm. Each session begins with study, then moves to chanting and meditation practice. The group meets in our beautiful, serene sanctuary—the perfect place to help reach *yichud* (union) with the Shechinah.

Tefilah sh'b'Lev: Prayer of the Heart

Join Rabbi Zari Weiss for a course entitled "Tefilah sh'b'Lev: Prayer of the Heart," on Thursdays from 7–8:20 pm for six sessions starting October 7. Rabbi Weiss will explore how to pray, drawing upon traditional and alternative Jewish liturgy. She will teach the basic background of the traditional prayers, focusing on how to make the experience of prayer a meaningful and relevant one. The course is taught in cooperation with Lehrhaus Judaica. The cost is \$35 for CSZ members, \$45 for Learning Consortium members and \$55 for the general public.

Havdalah Series:

Gad Beck on October 23

Adult Education/Talmud Torah will sponsor a series of Havdalah events during the coming year. Our series leads off with an incredibly heroic figure of the Holocaust. Gad Beck was a gay Jewish leader of the anti-Nazi underground. Living in Berlin throughout the war, he used clever ruses, many disguises (once as a Nazi youth member!), and various gay connections to procure food, forged documents, money, housing and intelligence. His book, *An Underground Life*, is mostly the retelling of his experiences from the rise of the Nazis to the end of the war. He will speak and answer questions in an event held in cooperation with A Different Light Bookstore on Saturday, October 23. A Havdalah service will begin at 7 pm and Gad Beck will speak at 7:30. We are requesting \$5 to help defray Mr. Beck's travel costs.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah Group

Bar and bat mitzvot are cherished life cycle events which may be celebrated

at any time beyond the traditional 13th birthday. If you are interested in bar/bat mitzvah study, meet others planning adult b'nai mitzvah to discuss requirements, curriculum and study groups on Saturday October 2, 10–11:30 am, at the home of Dafna Wu.

One Day Hebrew

Hebrew teacher *extraordinaire* Esti Skloot will focus on the aleph-bet, vowels, essential pronunciation and sight-reading skills. This five-hour course uses inventive teaching aids including music and conversation models to help the Hebrew beginner. The class will meet Sunday, November 7, 1–6 pm at the synagogue. It is taught in cooperation with Lehrhaus Judaica. The cost is \$25 for CSZ members, \$35 for Learning Consortium members and \$45 for the general public.

Parenting Tips

Join Rachel Pepper, author of *The Ultimate Guide to Pregnancy for Lesbians: How to Stay Sane and Care For Yourself from Conception Through Birth*, and Bee Lavender, publisher of "Hip Mama: The Parenting Zine" at A Different Light Bookstore on Wednesday, November 3 (tentative date). The reading and discussion is co-sponsored by CSZ and the Metropolitan Community Church.

Pioneer Jews in California

Also in November, watch for a history program on pioneer Jews in California. This program, co-sponsored by Dor Rishon and Adult Education/Talmud Torah, will be presented by the Judah Magnes Museum. Complete information will be in the November JGF.

Continued on page 9

What's Up With the Rabbi Search

—Diana Buchbinder,
Search Committee Co-Chair

The Rabbi Search Committee continues its work, meeting twice a month. To date, we have had orientation visits by the chairs of the previous search committee and Rabbi Michael Berk of the UAHC. We spent time getting to know each other and began our review of the criteria used during our last search. The Rabbi Search Committee is diverse and represents a range of perspectives and experiences at CSZ. We look forward to learning from and growing with each other during this process.

In August, a mailing of the criteria used in the previous search was sent to every member of the congregation. We asked for updates and comments. The comments received via email, communicated at the first community meeting, sent to the office and delivered in person have been thoughtful, informative and much appreciated. We look forward to hearing from more members at the next community meeting on Sunday, October 10, 3–5 pm.

After the October 10 meeting, the committee will incorporate the membership feedback into the "Application for Rabbi," which will be transmitted to the Rabbinical Placement Commission of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. A copy of the application will be available for review through the CSZ office. We hope to begin interviewing candidates in December or January.

Please continue to share your thoughts with us. Send your comments to rabbisearch@shaarzahav.org.

Yizkor Elohim

CSZ's Beloved Co-Founder

Bernard Pechter

October 20, 1935 – September 5, 1999

May His Memory Be For a Blessing

Jewish Globetrotting

Check your frequent flyer accounts and your calendars. Dust off your backpacks. Brush up your French, Spanish, Dutch, German, Hungarian and Hebrew. Phone that cousin in New Jersey(?!). Exciting opportunities are coming up in 2000—two rare and wonderful connections with GLBT Jews from all over the globe.



David Gellman

First, the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Jewish Organizations, of which our congregation is a proud affiliate, is holding its 16th World Conference of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews from Friday, July 28th through Sunday, July 30th, 2000 at Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey. The conference is co-sponsored by the Lesbian and Gay Havurah of New Jersey. The event will feature a global array of seminars, entertainment, speakers and multi-lingual shmoozing. If you have ever attended a regional or world conference of the World Congress, you know how exciting it is to connect with our siblings from Johannesburg, New York, Tel Aviv, Miami, Brussels, Minneapolis, Paris, Phoenix, London, Seattle, Amsterdam, Chicago, Frankfurt, Los Angeles and Sydney. For many attendees, CSZ seems a distant El Dorado, where Jews can be open and proud of their sexual identities, have families, raise children and build synagogues. Such is not the case throughout the world, and the participation of CSZ members at World Congress events gives support and encouragement to Jews from distant lands and hostile sociopolitical climates. In exchange, we take home new ideas about music, ritual, relationships, world politics and, of course, ethnic foods. Finally—a chance to sample indigenous New Jersey ethnic cuisine! [Editor's note: As a native New Jerseyite, let me say you're in for a real treat.]

Information on the 16th World Conference will be available at CSZ, and further details provided in future *Forwards*. Meanwhile, mark your calendar and check out www.njhav.org and www.wcgljo.org/wcgljo.

The other international event, literally on the opposite side of the world, will occur in Sydney, Australia, on March 4, 2000, when the Dayenu Association, the Aussie organization for community inclusion of Jewish Lesbians and Gays, will be launching the first ever Jewish float in the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras parade. Australia is at a crucial time in the development of attitudes towards Jewish lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders. In a country where 80% of the Jewish community is affiliated with orthodox synagogues, gays and lesbians in Sydney and Melbourne are courageously coming out, seeking rights and recognition. The participation of the international Jewish GLBT community in the March 2000 parade will provide immeasurable support for our Australian mishpocha. And how could there be a better act of tikkun olam than to join in the most spectacular street party on the planet, with a crowd of more than a million people, in a festival that is revolutionary, empowering, safe and fabulous.

The parade itself is preceded and followed by parties to suit every style and budget. Of course, there will be a Shabbat dinner the night before for international visitors to meet each other and their Aussie hosts. For information, email cohen@ozemail.com.au.

January 2000 is only the beginning of an incredible secular year!

New Member Potluck

There will be a New Member Potluck on Sunday, November 7, from 4-6 pm, in the oneg room. All CSZ members are welcome, especially those who have joined in the last six months or have not attended a New Member potluck before. Please come shmooze with oldtimers and newcomers, learn more about your community and bring a vegetarian dish to share. Call Joe Hample (621-7675) to RSVP or for more information.

AIDS Memorial Grove Cleanup

On Sunday, August 15, about 25 dedicated volunteers from CSZ and Jewish Family and Children's Services weeded, planted and cleaned the National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park. The day was beautiful and we accomplished a tremendous amount of work in just a few short hours. We ended the workday with a short service dedicated to the memory of those who have died of AIDS.

We would like to thank our volunteers for their participation. We would also like to thank the companies that sponsored the day. Safeway Stores provided drinks for our volunteers and Katz's Bagels donated bagels.



Tony Harris, David Gellman and Ruth Miguel holding banner at the San Francisco G/L/B/T Pride Parade. Photo by Bernie Hirschbein.

It's Not Too Late To Race For the Cure

For those of you who have not signed up yet, it's not too late to join the first CSZ team participating in the Race for the Cure, a fundraising project for the Susan G. Koman Breast Cancer Foundation. The Race for the Cure takes place on October 17 at 8:30 am. It's easy to sign up.

First, decide what you want to do. You can run a 5k (a little over three miles) or you can run one mile. You also have the option of walking either distance. Second, pick up a registration form, located outside of the oneg room. Next, call your friends and family and ask for sponsorship. Collect from your sponsors and come to the race. Bring your friends. Children are welcome. Our team number is 225. If you would rather donate funds, please contact Dahlia (575-4961) or Laura Lowe (247-2409). We look forward to seeing you on the 17th.

Thanks for helping.

Tranny Fest

The Transgender and Transgenre Cinema Film Festival presents Tranny Fest: Trick or Tranny, October 30, 1999, noon to midnight, at the Roxie Cinema. CSZ will co-present at 7:30 pm, providing information about our community. Come dressed as your favorite classic Halloween character!

Naches

To **Antoinette Rose**, on her entrance into the covenant.

To **Donald Abrams**, on becoming President of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association.

To **Alison Scott and Alisa Weiner**, on their new home.

To **Beth Richman**, on receiving her MSW from Smith College School for Social Work.

To **Richard Brand**, on his new position as Behavioral Health Coordinator at Kaiser Hayward.

To **Sarah Goodman**, on the birth of her nephew, Robert Samuel Goodman, son of John B. and Sherri Goodman.

To **Art Cohen**, on being named client services volunteer of the year at the Marin AIDS Project.

Dor Rishon:

Dinners and More . . .

Dor Rishon, Sha'ar Zahav's social group for men who were old enough to vote when the congregation was founded (and are now 40+), will sponsor its monthly pre-Shabbat dinners the first Friday of every month: October 1, November 5 and December 3. Dinners take place at 6:30 pm in San Francisco. A specific location is announced close to each date.

This November, Dor Rishon is sponsorship with the Adult Education/Talmud Torah Committee, *A Look At Pioneer Jews of California*, an exciting event presented at CSZ by the Judah Magnes Museum.

Join us in December for a Chanukah dinner and the lighting of the Chanukah menorah at Union Square.

Rosh Hashanah Basket Delivery a Success

Many homebound Jews spend the holidays alone. Organizations such as Jewish Family and Childrens Service make an effort to reach out to these people and bring some comfort. Several Sha'ar Zahavniks spent their Labor Day Sunday performing the mitzvah of delivering Rosh Hashanah baskets to homebound elderly, disabled and HIV/AIDS clients of JFCS. To give without being asked is one of the highest mitzvot or ways of giving. Thank you to all those who participated in the basket delivery: Debbie, Josh and Yonah Levy, the Prochovnick-Frantz family (Ora, Rena, Shayna and Tsipora), Barak Gale, Joe P. and Tony Harris.

Castro Street Fair

Come to the Fair
And have some fun;
Shmooze with Jews
And meet someone.

The CSZ booth is the place to be. We'll sell leather yarmulkes and other chatchkes.

Menorahs and candles and dreidels we sell;
T-shirts and mezuzahs and a little gelt as well.

So give me a call,
Or find me Friday night:
I'm usually in the Oneg Hall
Or in the Sanctuary—by the
Eternal Light.

So mark your calender for
October 3rd
And join us at the Fair—let your
voice be heard.

To volunteer, contact Program
Director Dahlia Gross (575-4961 or
CSZDahlia@yahoo.com).

LYRIC: Lavender Youth

Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center is hosting a community open house to let us know about their services. LYRIC is a community center where lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth 23 and under can turn for support, information, resource and acceptance. The open house will be on October 13 beginning at 5:30 pm, with an informal talk and question and answer period with staff and youth around 6:30 pm.

Save the Dates

CSZ Town Hall Meetings

Come share your thoughts and feelings about our synagogue and hear other members' opinions and ideas at one or all of the following Town Hall meetings, all at 10:30 am at CSZ:

- Sunday, October 3
- Sunday, October 17
- Sunday, October 24

Kadimah Corner

The month of October is going to be packed with super activities for all Kadimah students and families to enjoy.

Kadimah Calendar

- *Saturday, October 2*—All Kadimah classes will join the Shabbat morning service to celebrate our first Simchat Torah in Mishkan Dolores.

- *Wednesday, October 6*—Regular classes.

- *Saturday, October 9*—Adam Sigal celebrates his bar mitzvah.

- *Wednesday, October 13*—Regular classes.

- *Saturday, October 16*—Regular classes and an all-parent meeting at 11:15.

- *Wednesday, October 20*—Regular classes.

- *Saturday, October 23*—Regular classes.

- *Wednesday, October 27*—Regular classes.

- *Friday, October 29*—Family Shabbat dinners.

- *Saturday, October 30*—Regular classes.

Kadimah Teachers

I would like to introduce to you the fabulous Kadimah teachers who will guide us into the millennium:

Gan—Ila Cherney

Kitah Aleph—Caryn Aviv

Kitah Bet—Jennifer Markowitz

Kitah Gimel—Sandra Vaknin

Kitah Dalet—Jennifer Levinson

Kitah Hay—Phyllis Mintzer

Keep your eyes peeled for more information on the new teachers in future issues of the JGF. But don't be shy. Get to know 'em. Get to love 'em.

Thanks also to the Bureau of Jewish Education and Sinai Memorial Chapel, two organizations that assist our school, year after year. We couldn't enjoy such success without their ongoing support.

Upcoming Events at Camps Newman and Swig

Camps Newman and Swig have just released the dates for the Winter Shabbat retreats. If you want to go, or just need more information, please contact Elise Fineberg at 575-4962. The dates for this season's retreats are:

October 8–10, Grades 3 and 4

November 12–14, Grades 5 and 6

February 11–13, Grades 3 and 4

March 17–19, Grades 5 and 6

Back to School Success

Thanks to CSZ, local and national businesses and the S.F. Department of Human Services, 50 well-prepared students will be returning to school this year. Over the past month, CSZ has acted as a collection site in a Back to School Supplies drive. Many items ranging from notebooks to paper and from calculators to basic #2 pencils were donated. In addition, businesses, including Costco, Mervyns and Esprit, donated 50 backpacks. Children can choose from a traditional black, Barbie pink, purple plaid or Winnie the Pooh versions.

S.F.'s own Cliff's Variety topped everything off with hip and trendy notebooks and miscellaneous supplies. A special thank you goes to the S.F. Department of Human Services for coordinating this program. Thanks to Marc Lipschutz, LCSW and CSZ member, who brought the idea to us. *Todah rabah* to Allan Berenstein and Laura Lowe, Social Action co-chairs, for putting their hearts into this project. During this New Year season, it is important to remember that each one of us has an enormous impact on the environment in which we live. Youths of all ages who are at risk of abuse and neglect will now have a chance because of our efforts. Thanks CSZ!



Allan Berenstein, Lisa Ochs and Dahlia Gross organizing school supplies for needy students in San Francisco.

Dear CSZ:

Thank you very much for taking the action in the "Back to School Project." Your generous contributions, such as brand new high quality backpacks filled with basic school supplies, are great gifts to our children.

The wonderful donations promote a positive educational experience. Your support has made a difference to the children and families we serve.

Sincerely,

Brenda Lee

City and County of San Francisco, Department of Human Resources

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Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Brian Ellis and Steve Farmer |
| 12 | Alex Ingersoll and David Stein |
| 19 | Ellen Goldstein and Lezlie Frishman |
| 20 | Hilary Zaid and Lauren Augusta |
| 23 | Steven Gaynes and Richard Bolingbroter |
| 28 | Bill Goldstein and Chris Archuleta |

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Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, California 94103, marked: attention *Forward* advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.

October 1999/Volume 23, Issue 2.



Simchat Torah: Prayers for Rain

—Nina Wouk for the Ritual Committee
After Simchat Torah, the daily prayers change. A line in praise of rain is added to the *Adimah*: *mashiv ha'ruach u'morid ha'gashem*—"who causes the wind to blow and the rain to fall." We inherited these words from our Temple-era ancestors.

All summer, as different crops ripened, a series of harvest festivals brought people from outlying regions to the Temple to dedicate each crop. As farmers, our ancestors' prayers were concerned with natural growth, which depends critically on weather. In summer, the people prayed for dew to stave off withering; after Sukkot, with the harvests gathered, they began hoping for a rainy winter, preparation for a new growing season.

The fall holy days were part of the new year's rites, ending the summer cycle of pilgrimages. Sukkot, the year's first full-moon gathering, was also the culmination of the solar growing year. No wonder they called this double celebration, this beginning and ending, the Festival—the Entirely Joyous season.

Our Temple-era ancestors believed that the new year was literally the re-making of the universe, of significance to all nations. The season could never be one of a solely selfish happiness; it represented the joy of having ripened a crop bountiful enough to share. Our ancestors spent Sukkot making offerings on behalf of all the nations of the renewed world, culminating with an all-night prayer for rain. The Talmud records that whoever has not seen the water-pouring ceremony has not seen true rejoicing.

On Shemini Atzeret, after the week-long Sukkot celebration, our ancestors had a quiet final day with God and then went home. Simchat Torah didn't yet exist. Neither did the annual cycle of Torah reading, although the Torah was read in public during Sukkot at the Temple every seventh year, perhaps inspiring the growth of constant Torah reading as a religious practice. Nor, after the torch-lit revelry of the water-pouring procession, did our ancestors feel any need of further celebration.

Simchat Torah came later in history. The Temple was destroyed, the rites of Sukkot made impossible. Jews were forbidden to enter Jerusalem. Most lived in Babylonia, often in dire poverty.

After the Bar Kochba revolt, the Roman Empire outlawed the Jewish religion. The Torah demands rejoicing on festivals. Many of the psalms were meant to stimulate rejoicing. But it was a difficult time to be entirely joyous.

With the end of Temple ritual, prayer had to take the place of sacrifice. Yet even the most heart-felt communion with God can't replace public drama. Thus the Torah service evolved, elaborated into a royal procession, the centerpiece of every Shabbat service. Naturally the annual Torah cycle should begin again with each new year. But there was a problem: the Torah ends with Moses' death, the loss of our greatest leader. This was undoubtedly especially painful for those generations whose more recent leaders had been horribly martyred. Rabbi Arthur Waskow speculates that they didn't want to dwell on the death of Moses nor skip over it.

Simchat Torah doesn't hurry past Moses' death; his final blessing, death and burial by God is read over and over until everyone in the congregation has an *aliyah*. But the end is followed by the beginning, the first part of the story of creation, flourishingly proclaimed. The whole occasion is designed like a wedding, with Torah readers being called the bridegrooms of the Torah. There is drinking and toasting each *aliyah*, dancing that begins as a Torah procession, extravagant cantorial interpretations of the closing prayers as the morning service lasts well into the afternoon. The day is designed to be entirely joyful, echoing the ancient water-pouring ceremony, the seal on the remaking of the world.

Like Sukkot in ancient times, Simchat Torah is a multiple celebration. It combines the new year and the successful making of a people and of their purpose. As the agricultural story revolves around harvests, the history revolves around Torah.

Simchat Torah is one of four harvest festivals, the others being Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkot. Pesach is well-known as the festival of the birth of a nation, the sprouting of a seed that was once planted in the rich soil of the Nile delta. In Temple times, Pesach marked the first ripening and eating of the year's early crop, barley—and the commemoration of an older generation's bursting, bloody and bewildered, into freedom.

Continued on page 9

CSZ Hebrew

New to CSZ? Haven't been in a synagogue in a while? Exploring Judaism? Whatever the reason, you may be unfamiliar with Hebrew terms commonly used at CSZ and many other synagogues and Jewish institutions. We thus offer the following list as a guide. (Please let us know if you'd like us to add any words.)

aliyah—honor of being invited to recite the blessings before and after the Torah is read or chanted; also, when one moves to Israel

amidah—silent standing prayer

auf ruf—honor, such as an *aliyah*, for a couple about to be married

bikkur cholim—visiting the ill

bimah—the raised platform from which ritual leaders conduct services

b'nai mitzvah—collective noun for bar (son) and bat (daughter) *mitzvah*

chavurah—group of friends

devar torah—words of Torah; commentary on the weekly Torah portion

dor rishon—first generation; social group for CSZ men over 40

erev—evening

gemilut chasadim—acts of loving-kindness

havdalah—ritual performed

Saturday night after three stars appear in the sky marking the end of Shabbat and beginning of the week

kabbalat Shabbat—welcoming the Sabbath

kaddish—prayer recited in memory of someone who has died

kadimah—forward; CSZ religious school

kiddush—blessing over wine

kippah—head covering

la'atid—toward the future; CSZ group for young and young at heart

ma'ariv—evening service

mazel tov—good luck; used to mean congratulations

minchah—afternoon service

mishpachah—family

mitzvah—commandment; also used to refer to a good deed

motzi—blessing over bread

musaf—additional service

naches—pride (this one is Yiddish, not Hebrew)

oneg—joy; the social hour following Shabbat services

oseh shalom—maker of peace;

we sing this at the end of

CSZ services and meetings

parashah—weekly Torah portion (plural: *parashot*)

Rosh Hashanah—literally, head of the year; Jewish New Year

Sha'ar Zahav—Golden Gate

Shabbat shalom—Sabbath peace

shacharit—morning

Shechinah—in-dwelling presence of God; God's feminine essence

Shoah—the Holocaust

tallit/tallis—prayer shawl

tikkun olam—repair of the world

todah rabah—thank you very much

tzedakah—righteous act; Shabbat *mitzvah* of giving

va'ad—board or board of directors

yahrzeit—anniversary of a death

Yom Kippur—Day of Atonement

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New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

Trudy Fulton-Smith

Judith Klain, Michael and Sofia Klain-Chavez (welcome back)

Arlene Singer and Barbara Leff

Susan Borowitz

Anna and Joshua Katz

Miki Goralsky (welcome back)

Mike Bromberg and Ken Repp

Ian Fried

Greg and David Ramos

Joyce Garay (welcome back)

Phyllis Battleman

Rachel Field and Lele Diamond

Marc Wernick

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

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Lost and Found

CSZ's lost and found basket contains any number of items including sweaters, jackets, shirts, caps, sunglasses, toys and water bottles. It is located under the membership table in the hallway outside the oneg room. If you think you have lost something at CSZ, please stop by or call the office to see if it we have it. Any items unclaimed by October 15 will be donated to Community Thrift.



Joe Hample and Greer Hauptman in a post-nuptial at the San Francisco G/L/B/T Pride Parade. Photo by Bernie Hirschbein.

B'nai Mitzvah Mentorship Program

CSZ has a tradition of pairing one of our prospective b'nai mitzvah students with an adult member of the congregation who works with the student as tutor, mentor and friend. We are currently recruiting tutors for the upcoming year. In addition, this year we received a grant to create a training program to teach adults the skills needed to be a b'nai mitzvah mentor. Our program will begin in the fall and will include short, intensive courses in basic Hebrew skills, trope, teaching children and an overview of the CSZ liturgy. We want to gauge interest in this exciting project. If you have always wanted to work with children, but do not feel you have the Hebrew and Judaica skills to be a tutor, this program is meant for you. Please contact the office for more information.

Tot Shabbat Upcoming Events

Tot Shabbat is a group of kids from two to five years old and their family members. We meet every fourth Saturday of the month at 10:30 am at CSZ. We have special Tot Shabbat Services compiled by our parents, followed by an arts and crafts project or storytelling. Everyone is invited to attend. See you there!!!

- October 23: The beauty of Shabbat
- November 27: Jewish dance for everyone
- December 25: TBA (East Bay)
- January 22: Tu Beshvat, Birthday of the Trees!

Adam Sigal

Adam Sigal will be called to the Torah to become bar mitzvah on October 9, 1999. Adam is a seventh grader at Brandeis Hillel Day School, where his favorite subject is science. He is especially fascinated by marine biology, which he wants to pursue as a career.



Adam Sigal

In his free time Adam enjoys skateboarding, playing football and anything to do with the ocean.

He has enjoyed his studies and CSZ classes and events and feels they have prepared him well for this exciting time. Adam feels very lucky to have Bereshit, the story of Adam and Eve, as his Torah portion. Adam will be the first in his family to become bar mitzvah, and also the first in his class at Brandeis. He feels that this portion is symbolic of his bar mitzvah: the chronicles of Adam.

Adam would like to thank his tutor, Mark Klaiman, and Aaron Buchbinder, who have helped him immensely. He would also like to thank Rabbi Jay Krause, his grandparents, and the rest of his family for giving him so much love and support.

The entire CSZ family wishes mazel tov to Adam, his parents, Susan Jacobsen and Byron Sigal, and his younger brother David.



Don't Forget!

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Adult Education Fund

Susan Schwartz and Julie Schlesinger, in memory of Dr. Jerome Wolfe.
Friends and Colleagues of Judith Wolfe, in memory of Dr. Jerome Wolfe.

AIDS Fund

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Bill Schlichter.

Children's Education Fund

Barbara Cymrot and Dafna Wu, in honor of Ruby's receiving the Fred Nathan Award at Brandeis Hillel Day School and beginning Lick High School.

General Fund

Allan Berenstein, in honor of Bob Nacamulli's 50th birthday.
Seth Charney, in memory of Morris Charney.
Margit David and Boyd Arnold, in honor of Howard Steiermann's leading the Shabbat Service on August 6.
Eileen Dunn, in memory of Abraham and Evelyn Dunn.
Karen Erlichman, in honor of the marriage of Valerie Curtis and Yavn'ela Oline.
Alan Ferrara, in memory of Jon P. Weisinger.
Mike Finesilver, in honor of Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum and Rabbi Roderick Young of Congregation Beth Simchat Torah in New York City.
Jeff Forman and Paul Nemrow, in memory of Julie Gutterman.
Jim Frazin, in memory of Bea Shapiro.
Stephen Hauptman, in memory of Michael Hauptman.
Marjorie Hilsenrad, in honor of a great Advance.
Jeff Kaye and Scott Mezistrano.
Shoshana Keller and Deborah Reichler, in honor of their visit to CSZ this summer.
Mark Mackler, in honor of Jon Funk's birthday.
Patti Moskovitz, in honor of Antoinette Rose and Paul Cohen.

Patti Moskovitz, in memory of Julie Gutterman.
Mike Rankin.
Antoinette Rose, in honor of Paul Cohen.
Lea Salem and Lisa Ochs, in honor of Mark Schoenberg.
Lea Salem and Lisa Ochs, in honor of Joe Hample and Reineres Susbilla.
Elizabeth Schaffer, in memory of Stanton Schaffer.
Arthur Slepian, in memory of his parents, George and Sarah Slepian.
Daniel Sonnenfeld, in honor of CSZ's commitment to the Deaf community.
Susan Tubbesing, in memory of Laura Bezman.
Susan Tubbesing and Sarah Nathe, with prayers for David Stein's full and speedy recovery.
David Zeemak, in honor of his visit to San Francisco and CSZ.
Eva Zysman, in memory of Dr. Andy Zysman.

High Holiday Contributions

Lonny Darwin, in honor of Jerry Rosenstein.
Richard Ostreicher.
Jerry Rosenstein.

Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign
Avraham Giannini.
Laura S. Lowe.
Lea Salem and Lisa Ochs, in honor of Ira Hirschfield.
Sharper Lighting.
Lonnie Weiss, in memory of Helene and Eugene Blau.

Prayerbook Fund

Lonnie Weiss, in memory of Jackie Weiss.

Social Action Fund

Allan Berenstein.
Edward Leven and Andrea Davis, in honor of the wedding of Allan Gold and Alan Ferrara.

HIV+ Support Group

The CSZ HIV Support Group is currently on hiatus; monthly Shabbat dinners, however, will continue on the last Friday of every month. The next Shabbat dinner will be on Friday, October 29th. For more information or to RSVP, please call the CSZ office.

Classifieds

LOVELY TWO bedroom flat near UCSF in a multi-unit Victorian building with other CSZnicks: parking, washer and dryer, two fireplaces, no pets, no smokers, \$2,100/month; call Nathan 703-0747.

BI-WOMAN, MID 40s, passionate about life, wants to meet single Jewish women (bi or lesbian) for socializing, dinner, cocktails, and discovering mutual interests. Call Gerri at 824-6523.

TROPICAL PARADISE—Kauai vacation rental: 2 cottages & 1 bedroom house on private drive sharing lush garden. Centrally located. Call Sandy Meyers (808/822-7537) or e-mail sand@aloha.net.

BISEXUAL FEMALE/MALE COUPLE seeking 1-2 co-parents with whom to create family, share parenting resources, extend community. We are open to biological or adopted children, are politically progressive, working class backgrounds, into alternative, creative family structures. Call Louisa @ 584-8475 or Jim @ 337-4566.

WEBSITE DESIGN, PRODUCTION, and Management. Experienced editor, graphic artist and webmaster can create a professional web presence for your business or organization—stressing communications, presentation and craftsmanship. Contact Henry at 863-4910 or henry@hanksite.com.

INTERESTED IN starting a daycare co-op? If so, call Jeri Lyn at 864-1237 and let's talk.

ALL THINGS MACINTOSH: Troubleshooter for hire! Solve mysterious freezes. Improve performance. Software support, tutoring and more. Roslyn, 510/526-1209.

CSZ TEEN looking for babysitting and mother's helper work. Call G. Lindsey at 334-4784 for information.

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Simchat Torah

Continued from page 5

Like the early harvest, the exodus was only a beginning. In the national founding myth, the Israelites find themselves pursued by Egyptians, wandering hungry in the desert, questioning their leaders. The disorganized people are like a new plant in uncertain weather and indifferent soil.

In the agricultural year, the 49 days between Pesach and Shavuot (the *omer*) were a time of anxiety; counting the *omer* meant marking the passage, one at a time, of days that could easily bring disaster. New crops, like new people, are fragile; like new freedom, they bring responsibility.

In Temple times, the Shavuot festival was a time of relief, marking the beginning and dedication of the wheat harvest. The people too have survived their first dangers, ripening into dedication. With the coming of manna, a divinely-granted food supply assures survival. At Mount Sinai, a divinely-inspired set of laws for living provides direction, burden and inspiration.

Sukkot, the Feast of Ingathering, celebrated the completion of all the year's harvests. The mythic ancestral Israelites are finally planted in their own land and bearing fruit, secure enough to share their bounty. Our Temple-era ancestors celebrated their own successful growing year along with their ancestors' successful journey. With the water-pouring ceremony, they magically ensured life to the world in the form of winter rains. Every seven years they celebrated the Torah, the seed of a life-renewing gift to all people.

Where our ancestors offered water on behalf of the world, we offer our acts of teshuvah, tefilah and tzedakah—repentance, prayer and righteousness. Where once our ancestors were entirely joyous in fulfilling their imagined responsibility of bringing rain, we celebrate our people's real though still imperfect achievement, bearing and transmitting our share of divinely inspired wisdom through space and time.

Adult Education

Continued from page 1

For information, please contact Ron Edelman (ronwizrd@slip.net) or Program Director Dahlia Gross (575-4961).

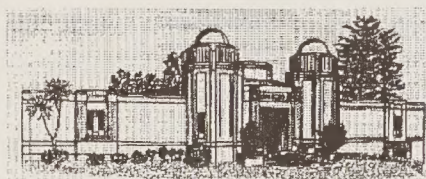
Oneg Sponsors

These generous people sponsored the Oneg Shabbat in recent weeks:

9/3 Friends of Richard Brand, in honor of his birthday

Got Email? Write to CSZ!

office@shaarzahav.org.



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Director of Sales

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Condolences

We extend our condolences to members who have suffered recent losses:

Judith Wolfe, on the death of her father, Jerome Wolfe.

Gabriele Kassner, on the death of her mother, Gerta Kassner.

Jim Frazin, on the death of his friend, Peter Barclay.

Ann Aptaker, on the death of her friend, Leonard Stein.

Larry Wexler, on the death of his aunt, Kay Resnick.

Members' Yahrzeits

6	Jeffrey Miller
8	Duane Kearns Puryear
13	Clint Bigglestone
18	Henry Mautner
24	Glenn Murray Miller
25	Harvey Levine
26	Richard D. Wright
29	Michael Mohr

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STEP TWO:

Percentage of all commissions to CSZ

NOVEMBER FORWARD DEADLINE MONDAY, OCTOBER 4

A D V E R T I S I N G

To place a display ad, contact Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net). To place a classified ad, call the office.

A R T I C L E S

Please submit articles via email to brian.jersky@sonoma.edu. If you do not have e-mail, please submit them on a 3½-inch disk and mail to CSZ. No late submissions will be accepted without prior approval of the Forward editor.



Birthdays

2	Gregory Rubin
2	Sharyn Saslafsky
2	Kyle West
3	Miriam Heath Katz
4	David Feinstein Shor
4	Richard Inlander
4	Mark Mackler
5	Benjamin Bernard-Herman
5	Howard Steiermann
6	Jenni Olson
7	Randy Heilbrunn
7	Michael Zimmerman
8	Marc Cohen
9	Stephen Hauptman
11	Forrest Kincade
12	Debra Chasnoff
12	Jeffrey Lilly
12	Beth Sousa
13	Anna Desmond Bernstein
13	Toby Dyner
13	David Gellman
13	Brian Jersky
14	Michael Bettinger
14	Sharon Tanenbaum
15	Tsipora Prochovnick
16	Bill Denebeim
16	Jo Hirschmann
16	Richard Meyerson
16	Anna Schwartz-Cohen
17	Adam Sigal
18	Steven Horowitz
19	Jonathan Katz
20	Donald Berger
22	Maxwell Sirkin
23	Roberta Achtenberg
23	Wanderson Carlos
23	Seth Charney
23	Ma'ayan Lieberman
24	Rachel Maclachlan
25	Alison Austin
25	Judith Cohen
25	Francine Frohlich
26	Ilana Bernstein
26	Susan Swigart
27	Bruce Henry
27	Joshua Kosman
27	Sanford Lowe
28	Batya Billinkoff
28	Nina Hall
28	Yoel Kahn
28	Rae Lorvick-Patt
28	Ilana Rainero-de Haan
29	Allan Berenstein
29	Brian Edlin
29	Pamela Miller



Synagogue Information

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

290 Dolores Street
San Francisco, CA 94103-2262
861-6932 (voice); 861-6081 (fax)
Programming office, 575-4961
Education office, 575-4962
office@shaarzahav.org (email)
http://www.shaarzahav.org (web)

Officers:

President, David Gellman (550-9449,
sfgellman@aol.com or
president@shaarzahav.org)
Vice President, Lisa Katz
Vice President, Lyssa Friedman

Treasurer, Arthur Slepian

Recorder, Sue Bojdak

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Steven Berlin
Diana Buchbinder (ex officio)
Ellie Cohen
Sarita Groisser
Howard Herman
Rose Katz
Robin Leonard
Jacob Rothman
Robert Tat
Ami Zusman

CSZ Staff:

Interim Educator, Elise Fineberg
Administrator, Lea Salem
office@shaarzahav.org
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cszdahlia@yahoo.com
Kadimah Head Teacher, Phyllis Mintzer
Administrative Assistant, Melanie
Kushnir
Youth Advisor, Meredith Fenton

Committee Chairs:

Adult Education, Ron Edelman and
Prudence Carter
Archives, open
Baby Chavurah, Melissa Grossman-
Naples
Bequests and Donations, Richard
Inlander
Bikkur Cholim, forming
Bisexual Havurah, Jim Frazin
Book Group, Mark Mackler
Building and Grounds, Arthur Cohen
Bylaws, Richard Inlander
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Children's Education Board, Liz
Schaffer
Dor Rishon, open
Dues Liaison, Eric Temple
East Bay Havurah, Ida Kuluk and
Larry Wexler
Endowment Fund, David Stein

Environmental Action, Barak Gale
and Brian Besser
Finance, Arthur Slepian
Fine Arts, Bob Gutterman
Fundraising, Jacob Rothman
Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin
Israel Havurah, Ron Lezell
La'atid, Geoff Benjamin
Leadership Development, Paul Cohen
Library, Joan Goldman
Long-Range Planning, Allan Gold
Membership, Joe Hample
Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign,
Ellie Cohen
Newsletter, Brian Jersky
Past Presidents Council, David Stein
Personnel, Lyssa Friedman
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky
Rabbi Search, Diana Buchbinder and
Alex Ingersoll
Ritual, Nicole Bloom
(bloomn@netscape.net)
Social Action, Laura Lowe and
Allan Berenstein
Toddler/Pre-school Havurah, Ilana
Bernstein
UAHC National Liaison, Mike Rankin
UAHC Regional Liaisons, Daniel
Chesir and Robin Leonard
WCGLBJO Liaison, Neil Grungras
Women's Havurah, open

*Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair
are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.*

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a
member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospi-
tal or at home, and would like to have a
member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee
call or visit, please notify the synagogue
office.

Member of the Union of American He-
brew Congregations and the World
Congress of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual
Jewish Organizations.

1 Friday
21 Tishri

- 6:30 pm, Dor Rishon Shabbat dinner
- 6:30 pm, Early service, led by Tiela Chalmers
- 6:36 pm, Candle lighting
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat service, led by Sarita Groisser, Daniel Chesir and Adam Sigal; participation by Gay Iz Mir

2 Saturday
22 Tishri

- Simchat Torah
- 9:15 am, Torah study
- 9:30 am, Kadimah Simchat Torah program
- 10 am, Shacharit service, led by Howard Steiermann and Alan Gordon
- 10–11:30 am, Adult B'nai Mitzvah group
- 1–2:15 pm, Shabbat meditation

3 Sunday
23 Tishri

- 10:30 am, Talking About the Synagogue, Town Hall Meeting
- 11 am–6 pm, Castro Street Fair

4 Monday
24 Tishri

- 6:30 pm, Children's Education Board

5 Tuesday
25 Tishri

- 7 pm, Finance committee

6 Wednesday
26 Tishri

- 4 pm, Kadimah Hebrew class
- 5:30 pm, Building and Grounds committee
- 7 pm, Newsletter editing

7 Thursday
27 Tishri

- 7–8:20 pm, Tefilah sh'b'Lev: Prayer of the Heart, with Rabbi Zari Weiss

8 Friday
28 Tishri

- 6:25 pm, Candle lighting
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat service, led by Nina Wouk and Greer Hauptman

9 Saturday
29 Tishri

- Shabbat Bereishit
- 9:15 am, Torah study
- 9:30 am, Kadimah
- 10 am, Bar mitzvah of Adam Sigal, led by Rabbi Jay Krause and Eileen Levy
- 1–2:15 pm, Shabbat meditation

10 Sunday
30 Tishri

- 3–5 pm, Rabbi Search Committee Community Meeting
- 7 pm, Newsletter layout

11 Monday
1 Heshvan

- 6:30 pm, Va'ad meeting

12 Tuesday
2 Heshvan**13 Wednesday**
3 Heshvan

- 4 pm, Kadimah Hebrew class
- 5:30 pm, LYRIC open house

14 Thursday
4 Heshvan

- 7–8:20 pm, Tefilah sh'b'Lev: Prayer of the Heart, with Rabbi Zari Weiss

15 Friday
5 Heshvan

- 6:15 pm, Candle lighting
- 7:15 pm, East Bay potluck and zemirot (singing)
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat service led by Eileen Levy and Tiela Chalmers

16 Saturday
6 Heshvan

- Shabbat Noah
- 9:15 am, Torah study
- 9:30 am, Kadimah
- 10 am, Shacharit service, havurah style with singing, led by Manny Fishman, Leslie Kane and Shmulik Fishman
- 11:15 am, Kadimah all parent meeting
- 1–2:15 pm, Shabbat meditation

Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.

17 Sunday
7 Heshvan

- 8:30 am, Susan G. Korman Race for the Cure
- 10:30 am, Talking About the Synagogue, Town Hall Meeting

18 Monday
8 Heshvan

- 7 pm, Membership committee

19 Tuesday
9 Heshvan**20 Wednesday**
10 Heshvan

- 4 pm, Kadimah Hebrew class

21 Thursday
11 Heshvan

- 7–8:20 pm, Tefilah sh'b'Lev: Prayer of the Heart, with Rabbi Zari Weiss

22 Friday
12 Heshvan

- 6:05 pm, Candle lighting
- 6:30 pm, Shabbat potluck
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat service led by Joe Hample and Dev Noily

23 Saturday
13 Heshvan

- Shabbat Lech Lekha
- 9:15 am, Torah study
- 9:30 am, Kadimah open house
- 10 am, Shacharit service
- 10:30 am, Tot Shabbat: the Beauty of Shabbat
- 1–2:15 pm, Shabbat meditation
- 7 pm, Havdalah celebration with Gad Beck

24 Sunday
14 Heshvan

- 10:30 am, Talking About the Synagogue, Town Hall Meeting

25 Monday
15 Heshvan**26 Tuesday**
16 Heshvan**27 Wednesday**
17 Heshvan

- 4 pm, Kadimah Hebrew class

28 Thursday
18 Heshvan

- 6:30 pm, Ritual committee
- 7–8:20 pm, Tefilah sh'b'Lev: Prayer of the Heart, with Rabbi Zari Weiss

29 Friday
19 Heshvan

- 5:57 pm, Candle lighting
- 6 pm, Kadimah family dinners
- 6:30 pm, HIV+ Support Group Shabbat dinner
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat service led by Nicole Bloom and Bill Jones; ASL interpreted service

30 Saturday
20 Heshvan


- Shabbat Vayera
- 9:15 am, Torah study
- 9:30 am, Kadimah
- 10 am, Shacharit service, "Traditions surrounding the Torah," led by Robin Leonard and Tiela Chalmers
- 1–2:15 pm, Shabbat meditation
- 7:30 pm, CSZ presentation at Tranny Fest, Roxie Cinema

31 Sunday
21 Heshvan**East Bay Services**

October 15, 7:15 pm, Shabbat Potluck and zemirot (singing), at the home of Merry Luskin and Meredith Florian, 510/531-9048

November 19, 8:15 pm, Shabbat Service, at the home of Susan Lubeck and Richard Weiner, 3927 Canyon Avenue, Oakland, 510/531-7660

December 17, 7:15 pm, Shabbat Potluck and zemirot (singing), at the home of Marianne Balin, 5272 Lawton Street, Oakland, 510/655-8969



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